

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 02951 191606Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08  
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04  
SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-01 ITC-01 PA-01 PRS-01  
AGRE-00 /056 W  
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R 190836Z APR 77  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9843  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ECIN, PFOR, SP  
SUBJECT: SPAIN AND THE EEC: THE 1970 AGREEMENT

REF: MADRID 1806, MADRID 2230

1. SUMMARY: THE APRIL 15 MEETING OF THE SPANISH CABINET  
PRODUCED A PUBLIC STATEMENT REJECTING THE NEW EEC  
NEGOTIATING MANDATE FOR UPDATING THE 1970 EEC/SPAIN  
ACCORD. DIVISIONS OF OPINION ON THE NEGOTIATIONS  
ARE EVIDENT WITHIN THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT. ECONOMIC  
WIRTERS HERE FEEL THE EEC OFFER IS NOT BALANCED BUT  
MOST OBSERVERS HAD FELT THE GOS WOULD ACCEPT THE EEC  
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PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EEC, ON APRIL 5, APPROVED THE EXPECTED  
NEGOTIATING MANDATE CALLING FOR A TWO-PHASE UPDATING  
OF THE 1970 EEC/SPAIN ACCORD. THE FIRST PHASE WOULD  
LEGALLY EXPAND COVERAGE FROM THE EC-SIX TO THE EC-NINE  
AND GRANT SOME LIMITED TARIFF REDUCTIONS. THE SECOND

PHASE, LATE THIS YEAR, WOULD INVOLVE HARD ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS. SPANISH MFA (FERRAN) INTIMATED TO THE PRESS AS LATE AS APRIL 14 THAT SPAIN WOULD SWALLOW HARD AND NEGOTIATE WITHIN THE EEC MANDATE.

3. ON APRIL 15 THE SPANISH CABINET ANNOUNCED THE EEC QUOTE MANDATE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A SUFFICIENT BASE FOR CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT AND CONCLUDED THAT THE SPANISH DELEGATION WOULD PRESENT OPPORTUNE COUNTERPROPOSALS ON THE INITIATION OF NEGOTIATIONS END QUOTE.

4. PRESS REPORTS HERE SAW THE DECISION AS RESULTING FROM THE SUCCESS OF THE ECONOMIC MINISTRIES IN RESTRAINING EXCESSIVE MFA ENTHUSIASM ABOUT THE POLITICAL VALUE OF EXPANDING LINKS TO THE EEC. ECONOMIC WRITERS HAVE ASSERTED, WITHOUT OUTLINING A FACTUAL BASIS, THAT THE EEC OFFER WOULD BE COSTLY TO SPAIN.

5. THE FATE OF THE EEC'S STANDSTILL AGREEMENTS WITH ITS THREE NEWER MEMBERS REMAINS THE IMPORTANT QUESTION FOR SPAIN. THE MFA HAS SEVERAL TIMES TOLD US THAT THE EEC MAY IN ANY CASE EXTEND THE VALIDITY OF THE AGREEMENTS FOR SOME AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IMPORTANT TO SPAIN BEYOND JUNE 30, ALTHOUGH WE HERE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO JUDGE WHETHER THIS IS SO. WE CAN ONLY GUESS AT POSSIBLE SPANISH MOTIVES FOR SEEING TO REJECT THE EEC TERMS: PROMPTLY AGREEING BRINGS SPAIN FEW BENEFITS, AND SPANIARDS MIGHT STILL BELIEVE EEC COULD IMPROVE ITS OFFER. STABLER

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
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